



COUNTY *of* LEXINGTON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
SOUTH CAROLINA

What's New in Lexington County

Volume 04 | Issue 02 | April 2021

— FROM THE DIRECTOR —

Growth of Manufacturing in Lexington County

A strong manufacturing base, heavily involved in a number of the sectors that have fared particularly well during the pandemic, continues to pump optimism and jobs through the Lexington County economy as 2021 rolls forward in an atmosphere of national recovery.

Those industries include pharmaceuticals (such as Nephron Pharmaceuticals), automotive (including Michelin), and food & beverage. In fact, Lexington County is part of the Central SC Region, which is home to more than 45 food processing facilities, which includes global and national brands such as Starbucks, Kraft Heinz, Pepsi and Domino's.

Plus, here are some additional statistics regarding manufacturing in Lexington County:

4th

Manufacturing is the 4th largest industry in Lexington County

12,272

People employed in manufacturing in Lexington County

\$60,424

Average annual manufacturing wage in Lexington County

150+

Manufacturing firms in Lexington County

5%

Manufacturing employment in Lexington County forecasted to grow by nearly 5% (4.81) from 2016 to 2026

8.15%

Percentage of labor force in Lexington County employed in manufacturing (12,272 out of 150,666)

From a broader perspective, I want to put some additional context to the above statistics from two new reports, the first from an economist with the Darla Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina and the second from the S.C. Department of Employment & Workforce (DEW).

A UofSC report released earlier this month says that manufacturing led the Palmetto State out of the Great Recession of 2008 and continues to play a more “uniquely dominant” role in our economy than is typical among the 50 states. In fact, manufacturing supports directly or indirectly more than 30% of all jobs in our state and pays an average salary 33% higher than the state’s average wage.

The second is from an April 16 “community profile” released by DEW that shows Lexington County’s unemployment rate continuing to be lower than the state and national averages for more than a decade. (For March 2021, the County was 3.7%, 4.8% for the state, and 6.2% nationally).

A diverse array of existing manufacturers in essential industries and a robust pipeline of qualified workers coming through our nationally known technical college system, as well as our colleges and universities, promises to keep Lexington County an ideal location for innovation and progress in the years ahead.

Sincerely,



Sarah J. Johnson

Director, Department of Economic Development

— SITE FEATURE —

Saxe Gotha Industrial Park – Lot 3



Lot 3 in Saxe Gotha Industrial Park (featured above), between Amazon and Nephron Pharmaceuticals, is a 100-acre site in total with 68 developable acres. The County is currently installing the basins, along with clearing, grubbing and grading the balance of the developable area. This site boasts:

- 68 developable acres currently being proactively cleared & graded
- Interstate frontage
- Rail accessible

- Accessed via 4-lane divided highway
- 1 mile to Interstate
- Accommodates nearly 1M SF

[Click here](#) to learn more about Saxe Gotha Industrial Park

— ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SNAPSHOT —

15
ACTIVE PROJECTS

\$506.1 MILLION
NEW INVESTMENT POTENTIAL

1,531
NEW JOB CREATION POTENTIAL

145,136
JOBS

March 2021 employment for Lexington County is an increase of 3,618 jobs since December 2020.

3.7%
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Lexington County's rate in March is lower than region's (4.5%) and state's (5.1%).

Source: S.C. Department of Employment & Workforce & The Conference Board's Help Wanted OnLine® data series, South Carolina Data is Seasonally Adjusted

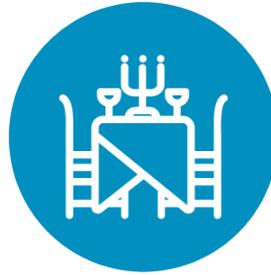
Top 3 Labor Market Projections

Total Employment Forecasted Growth Rate by Industry for Midlands Region



31%

Transportation & Warehousing



22%

Accommodation & Food Services

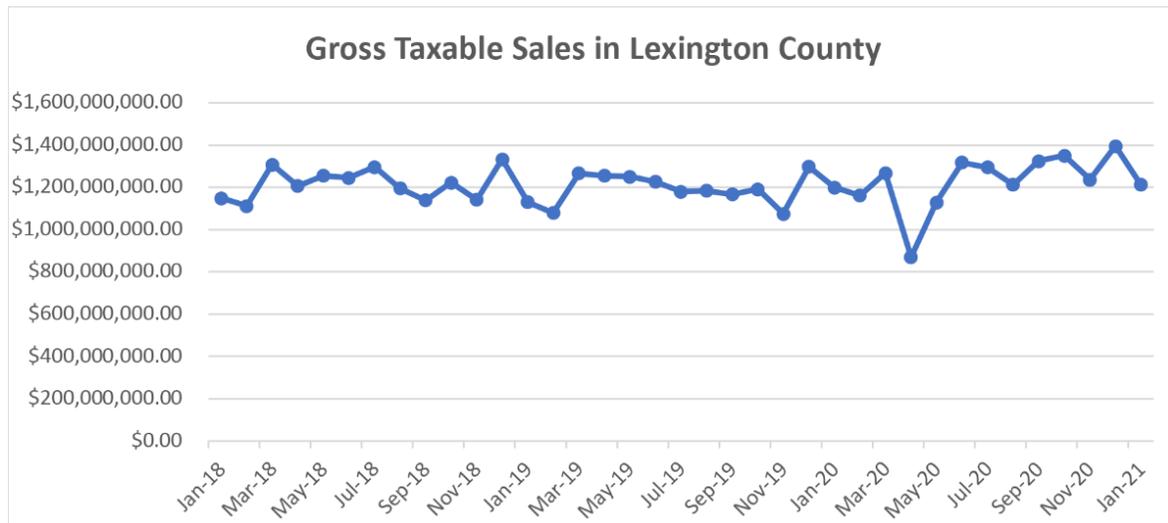


22%

Health Care & Social Assistance

Source: S.C. Department of Employment & Workforce – Industry Projections for 2026

Gross Taxable Sales \$342.4 Million Recovery since April 2020



Follow Us on LinkedIn

In an effort to create increased exposure for Lexington County and to drive attention to our new website, we have created a LinkedIn account for the County of Lexington Office of Economic Development. Follow us on LinkedIn and help us spread the word.



Spec Building is Now Available

Upon the completion of the Lexington County, SC Spec Building, we have revised our sales collateral with updated photography.

[View New Brochure](#)

[View Construction Time Lapse Video](#)

LEXINGTON COUNTY LEADERSHIP

Lexington County Council

District 1: Scotty "Scott" Whetstone

District 2: Paul Lawrence "Larry" Brigham, Jr.

District 3: Darrell Hudson

District 4: Debra B. "Debbie" Summers

District 5: Gene "Bimbo" Jones

District 6: Charlene "Charli" Wessinger

District 7: Beth A. Carrigg

District 8: Glen M. Conwell (Vice-Chair)

District 9: M. Todd Cullum (Chair)

Lexington County Administrator

Lynn Sturkie



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